

EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: FLOODS IN EASTERN SIBERIA

Appeal no: 16/01
28 May, 2001

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 480,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 15,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 8 MONTHS***

The Situation

The worst floods to hit eastern Siberia in a century have seriously affected the Republic of Yakutia, as well as the neighbouring Irkutsk and Tuva oblasts. The spring thaw followed a particularly harsh winter and has moved northwards along the course of the River Lena, raising water levels and causing serious flooding which has inundated towns and settlements along the course of the river. While the regional capital, Yakutsk, built on stilts and protected by dams and dykes, appears to have escaped the worst, the smaller town of Lensk with a population of over 30,000 has already been deluged by the floodwater, with 108 smaller settlements along the river's route also being badly affected. The loss of life so far has fortunately been limited, with eight people killed and two missing, but the cost to livelihoods and infrastructure is thought to extend far beyond the initial damage estimate of 6 billion roubles (CHF 365,884,334).

Since 13 May, almost 46,000 people have been evacuated to temporary shelters and centres on higher ground or are staying with friends and relatives. As immediate relief assistance has been delivered to those affected and flood waters recede, attention is turning to the long winter and the certain hardships to be faced by the population. The Yakutian government has already announced that it will only be able to rebuild 500 of the 3,000 homes destroyed by the flooding in Lensk, and further assistance will be critical to provide shelter, food, and household items support.

The Needs

Immediate Needs

Following the evacuation or rescue of those affected by the flooding, the priority immediate needs have centred on the delivery of food, shelter and water. Night-time temperatures in the region still fall below zero, prompting the need to provide appropriate shelter for those displaced, while the loss of food stocks and other household belongings has increased the vulnerability of those affected. The provision of clean water supplies is considered critical in these conditions to avoid the spread of infectious diseases, while hygiene, bedding and clothing are also priority needs.

The Russian Red Cross (RRC) response to the emergency has been led by the Yakutsk and Irkutsk Regional Red Cross Committees, co-ordinating and complementing their activities on the ground with the Ministry of Disasters (EMERCON), and other local services. The Red Cross has responded by releasing supplies from its emergency stocks in support of these efforts. In the village of Teply Kluch in Yakutia, the Red Cross equipped an evacuation centre for 100 people with food for 10 days, plus blankets and pillows. In total, over 24 tons of humanitarian aid, including food, medicines, hygiene kits, blankets and pillows have been delivered by the Red Cross to affected villages in Yakutia along the River Lena and its tributaries.

In Irkutsk, thanks to a donation from the American Red Cross and Russian Red Cross Food for Progress programme, 20 tons of food is being channelled to those affected by the flooding. The Red Cross branches in both regions have launched clothes appeals. In Irkutsk, 550 KGs of used clothing has been collected and sent to the worst affected areas, while over 2 tons of clothing has already been collected in Yakutia for the same purpose.

Further support from the Russian Red Cross Central Committee, supported by an allocation of CHF 50,000 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has enabled the local branches in Irkutsk and Yakutia to support 3,000 of the most vulnerable with pre-cooked food, blankets and hygiene items. The Eastern Siberian zone office of the Russian Red Cross, which has co-ordinated all Red Cross activity in the region, has purchased supplies.

It is likely that the needs will be greatest in the most isolated communities affected by the floods. This is due to their geographical remoteness, as well as the difficulties inherent in reaching them with humanitarian assistance and other support. The larger cities in the region appear capable of coping with the impact of the disaster, but it is the small to medium-sized communities which appear to be the most affected

Planning ahead to the second phase of the operation, the immediate needs during this period will change to longer-term activities (July to December) which are outlined below.

The Proposed Operation

Relief distributions w

Objective 1: Assessment of the most vulnerable.

To identify the most vulnerable within the affected population in Yakutia and Irkutsk. Assessments are ongoing in Tuva.

Activity 1: To support the local Russian Red Cross committees in Yakutia and Irkutsk, working closely with the affected communities themselves, in the assessment and identification of the most vulnerable. Based on local knowledge and working closely with the emergency services, the worst effected isolated settlements along the banks of the Lena river and its tributaries will be selected. As there is no Red Cross presence in the remote settlements, beneficiary selection will be carried out jointly with the local authorities, emphasis will be put on the elderly, multi-children families, single parent families and handicapped. To further control beneficiary selection as well as the distribution, the beneficiaries will receive the assistance directly from Russian Red Cross and Federation personnel.

Activity 2: To await assessment of the situation in Tuva and respond according to the needs and the local Red Cross capacity (selection of beneficiaries as outlined under activity 1).

Objective 2: Medium-long term domestic supply support.

To provide the beneficiaries with medium to long-term relief assistance, support them during the initial period of displacement, and provide them with resources upon the return to their homes.

Activity 1: To provide 1,300 beneficiaries with multi-fuel stoves.

Activity 2: To provide 7,500 beneficiaries with kitchen sets, each containing 2 plates, a pot, a saucepan and 2 cups.

Activity 3: To provide 6,000 beneficiaries with a sleeping pack containing a sheet, blanket and pillow case. To provide 2,000 beneficiaries with fold-down beds.

Activity 4: To provide 10,000 beneficiaries with hygiene packs including towels and basic hygiene items, to improve hygiene conditions in temporary accommodations and prevent the spread of disease.

Objective 3: Distribution of children's clothes.

Activity 1: To provide 900 children with footwear and a clothing set: hats, gloves, woollen socks, and warm weather clothing.

Objective 4: Medium term support to families with babies:

To provide medium-term support to families with babies affected by the flooding.

Activity 1: To provide 200 families with baby food parcels, powdered milk and cereal, for a period of eight months (to commence mid-July).

Logistics w

Objective 1: Timely and cost-effective delivery and distribution of relief supplies.

To identify and utilise the most efficient means of delivering humanitarian assistance to the region.

Activity 1: The Russian Red Cross Central Committee and the Federation Delegation in Moscow will explore the most appropriate means of transporting the humanitarian assistance to the affected communities along the River Lena and its tributaries. Procurement in Moscow, or locally, is currently being evaluated. Transporting the assistance by barge along the river appears to be the most viable option.

National Society Capacity Building w

Objective 1: Strengthen the disaster preparedness capacity of the Irkutsk and Yakutia Red Cross.

The Irkutsk and Yakutia Red Cross Committees have demonstrated effective capacity in responding to the emergency. The disaster preparedness capacity of the Red Cross committees in the region will be further strengthened to deal with annual flooding (though not on the scale currently being experienced).

Activity 1: The Irkutsk and Yakutia Red Cross response to the emergency will be evaluated by the Russian Red Cross's Disaster Preparedness department in Moscow, and the zonal co-ordination office for Eastern Siberia in Irkutsk. Results to be shared with all Zone offices and the Federation Delegation in Moscow, as well as sister National Societies.

Activity 2: Further training in disaster preparedness will be provided to the regional Red Cross committees in the east Siberia zone.

Activity 3: A reserve stockpile will be maintained in Irkutsk for future emergencies, consisting of 2 power generators, 20 stoves, 200 sleeping sets, and 150 cooking sets.

Objective 2: National Fund Raising Campaign:

Activity 1: The Russian Red Cross Central Committee has put in place, for the first time, a co-ordinated operational and fund-raising response. A Task Force is established to prepare a domestic appeal, to be accompanied by significant media coverage. As this is a pilot project for the Russian Red Cross, the expectations are modest. This, however, highlights the willingness of the Russian Red Cross to initiate new approaches and to raise its profile at the national level.

Co-ordination w

The Red Cross Committees in Yakutia and Irkutsk are working closely with EMERCON teams and with local disaster centres. EMERCON planes and helicopters have been made available to the Red Cross to enable the transport of assistance to the affected areas.

Monitoring and Evaluation w

Experienced, Federation-trained Red Cross monitors are located in both regions, and report on regular basis.

Capacity of the National Society w

The Irkutsk and Yakutia Red Cross committees involved in the operation have reacted extremely well to the disaster. Previous emergency relief operations and the present Food for Progress operation in Irkutsk have built strong, experienced, and professional regional committees, communicating well with the local authorities.

Present Capacity of the Federation w

The Federation's Delegation in Moscow currently has six delegates and a strong relief department headed by the regional relief co-ordinator.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

For further details please contact: Grazyna Samsel, Federation Senior Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4324; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: samsel@ifrc.org..

All International Federation Assistance Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management and Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

		ANNEX 1
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	APPEAL No. 16/2001	
Eastern Siberia floods		
TYPE	VALUE	
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	
Sleeping sets	88'400	
Children's clothes	38'250	
Baby food	13'600	
Utensils & tools: cooking stoves, sets	124'950	
Hygiene parcels	34'000	
Other relief supplies	25'000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		324'200
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Generators & lightning	5'800	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management	32'332	
Technical support	9'678	
Professional services	10'733	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	47'500	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
National staff	27'245	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses	4'000	
Information expenses	4'000	
Administrative & general expenses	14'000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		155'289
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		479'489